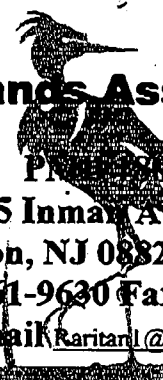




## **Edison Wetlands Association, Inc.**

  
1115 Inman Avenue  
Edison, NJ 08820-1132  
Phone (732) 661-9630 Fax (732) 661-9640  
E-mail [karitani@aol.com](mailto:karitani@aol.com)

The following is a list of issues and question regarding the investigation and remediation of the Cornell Dublier Superfund Site, South Plainfield NJ.  
A written response from EPA is requested.

### **Site related Issues**

1. EWA requests that EPA establish a Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) for the Cornell Dublier Superfund Site.
2. EWA requests that EPA investigates and removes material found upstream that appears to be site related in the Dismal Swamp.
3. EWA is concerned with off-site contamination and the pathway of exposure from fish consumption in Bound Brook and New Market pond.
4. EWA requests that EPA makes every effort to determine the fate of the contaminated dredge material take from the New Market Pond. Materials taken from pond were reportedly used for fill for home construction.
5. EWA requests that EPA assign this site a high priority and expedite the cleanup of the site. The timetable that EPA has established is unacceptable.

### **Site related questions**

6. Has ATSDR conducted an updated health assessment on the exposure scenarios on this site?
7. Have the swales of PCB and on-site soils been contained on the site?
8. Has EPA considered requesting the DOH conduct health monitoring for residents around the site?
9. What air monitoring has EPA conducted to date at the sites?
10. What is the status of the RI/FS for the site and the off-site areas?

**Edison Wetlands Association, Inc.**

PMB 180 1115 Inman Avenue

Edison, NJ 08820-1132

Phone (732) 661-9630 Fax (732) 661-9640

E-mail [RaritanJ@aol.com](mailto:RaritanJ@aol.com)

**Site Inspection Report**

**Cornell Dubilier Superfund Site**

**333 Hamilton Boulevard**

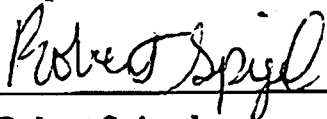
**South Plainfield, NJ**

**Middlesex County**

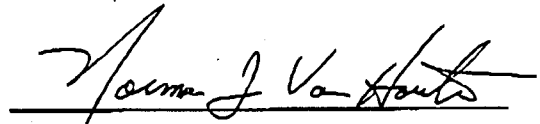
**Inspection Date: September 9, 1999**

**Report Issued: September 30, 1999**

**Prepared by:**



**Robert Spiegel  
Executive Director  
Edison Wetlands Association**



**Dr. Norman Van Houten, Ph.D.  
Senior Science Advisor  
Edison Wetlands Association**



**Andrea Ace  
Project Coordinator  
Edison Wetlands Association**

## **Table of Contents**

- I. Cornell-Dubilier September 9<sup>th</sup>, 1999 Site Inspection Report**
  - 1.0- Site Overview**
  - 2.0- Purpose of Site Inspection**
  - 3.0- Conduct of Site Inspection and Observations**
  - 4.0- Conclusion**
  - 5.0- Recommendations**
  - 6.0- Distribution**
- II. Map Attachments: A1, A2, A3 and A4**
- III. Photo Attachments: B1, B2 and B3**

All photos were taken by Robert Spiegel of the Edison Wetlands Association on September 29, 1999.
- IV. Incident Report Attachments for PCB Dump in Dismal Swamp: C1 and C2**
- V. ATSDR ToxFAQ Information Summaries:**
  - Attachment D-1- PCB's**
  - Attachment D-2- Lead**
  - Attachment D-3- Cadmium**
- VI. List of Issues and Questions: Attachment E-1**

## 1.0 Site Overview

During the 1950s, Cornell-Dubilier Electronics, Inc. manufactured electronic parts and components, and tested transformer oils. Discarded electronic components were landfilled on-site and transformer oils contaminated with PCBs were reportedly dumped directly onto site soils. The company vacated the site in the early 1960's.

The site is currently known as Hamilton Industrial Park and is occupied by an estimated 15 commercial businesses. Numerous companies have operated at the site as tenants over the years. A paved driveway is used to enter the park. The pavement ends within 100 yards of entering the park. It has been observed that vehicles entering the industrial park during dry conditions create airborne dust. The driveway leads into what was formally a dirt, gravel, and stone roadway that nearly encircles the business structures at the site. The roadway separates the structures from a heavily vegetated vacant field, and was paved by EPA in September of 1997 as part of the site stabilization process to mitigate migration of contaminated dust.

The vacant lot in the rear of the property was not addressed under this EPA action and has been found to contain PCB contamination as high as 550,000 Parts Per Billion (PPB) and Lead levels as high as 22,500 Parts Per Million (PPM). Cadmium contamination was found at levels as high as 152 PPM (see Attachments D-1, D-2 and D-3 for ATSDR ToxFAQ information and summaries on contaminants). Contamination from this site has been found in and around residential homes, in the Bound Brook, and in fish in the Bound Brook and surrounding lakes including New Market Pond.

The Cornell Dubilier Electronics Superfund Site is located at 333 Hamilton Boulevard in South Plainfield, Middlesex County, New Jersey (see Attachment A-1 for General Site map). The Cornell Dubilier Superfund Site is bound by Spice Avenue and Hamilton Boulevard. The 25-acre site is bordered by commercial businesses and residences on the South, West, North and Southeast sides and is bordered by the Bound Brook on the east and northeast sides. It is estimated that 540 persons reside within 0.25 miles of the site; the nearest residence is approximately 200 feet from the site.

## **2.0 Purposes of Site Inspection**

- To determine the current presence and extent of hazardous materials on the site, including progress made in site cleanup.
- To review issues and concerns surrounding the Cornell Dubilier Superfund Site cleanup.

## **3.0 Conduct of the Site Inspection and Observations**

Mr. Robert Spiegel [732-661-1660], Executive Director of the Edison Wetlands Association (EWA), requested the Cornell Dubilier Site Inspection for September 9, 1999. He conducted the inspection jointly with Mr. Peter Mannino of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Project Manager of the Cornell Dubilier Superfund Site [(212) 637-4395].

On September 9, 1999, at 10 AM, Mr. Spiegel and Mr. Mannino met at the EPA trailer on Spice Avenue in South Plainfield, NJ. They entered the site via the front gate (which was unlocked).

Spiegel reviewed with Mannino a list of issues and questions that the EWA had prepared (see Attachment E-1). The Edison Wetlands Association is still awaiting the requested written response to the questions.

While walking through the site, Spiegel observed that no cleanup work had been done in the rear area of the site. Three on-site swales containing PCB's were clearly visible and drainage channels into the Bound Brook were evident (see Attachment A-2). Mannino stated that the EPA had ordered the responsible parties to stabilize the site in 1997; he stated that he was not aware that they had not complied.

Spiegel then requested that Mannino accompany him into an area in the Dismal Swamp that is in close approximation to the Cornell Dubilier Site to inspect PCB-contaminated capacitors that he had found (see Attachment A-3). Spiegel indicated that the leaking capacitors he found in the swamp closely resembled the ones he found on the Cornell Dubilier Site prior to its fencing and Superfund designation. Mannino followed Spiegel to Woodbrook Road, but refused to go further into the swamp and did not inspect the dumping area. Spiegel generally discussed some of the issues he had submitted to Mannino and requested that Mannino respond to them in writing. Mannino agreed and stated he would send the EWA a copy of the off-site sampling report of the Mill Brook that traverses the Cornell Dubilier Site and the Administrative Consent order that the EPA issued for the Cornell Dubilier Site stabilization. Upon Mannino leaving, Spiegel contacted the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and Middlesex County Hazardous Material Unit about the capacitors (see Attachments C-1 and C-2).

Spiegel then went to New Market Pond and observed that the "Fishing Advisory" signs had been removed. He also observed several fishermen at the pond. Spiegel discussed the advisory with the gentlemen and was told that the Carp caught were being consumed and that they thought the pond was cleaned up since the signs were no longer posted.

## **4.0 Conclusions**

The parties responsible for the cleanup and stabilization of the Cornell Dubilier Superfund Site have not conducted the necessary work to stabilize the contaminants at the site. The EPA is responsible for current site conditions and must take additional measures to address the impacted areas. The EPA test results indicate that hazardous substances have and continue to migrate from the site in concentrations that may cause adverse health effects in humans and to the environment.

## **5.0 Recommendations**

The following recommendations are a result of research and inspections by the Edison Wetlands Association at the Cornell Dubilier Site, the adjacent Bound Brook, upstream Dismal Swamp areas and down stream to the New Market Pond.

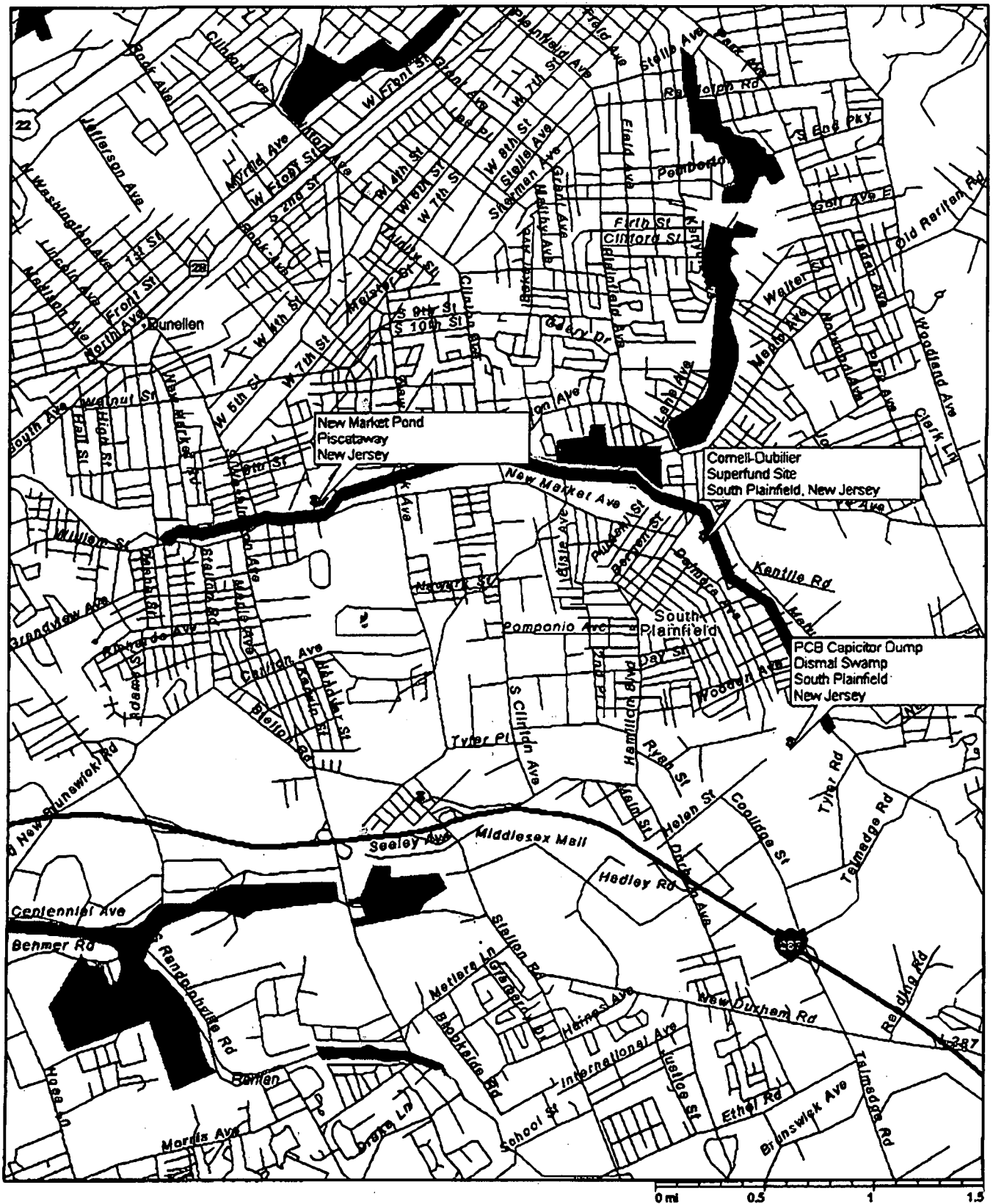
**The EWA strongly recommends that the EPA:**

1. Immediately mobilize its Emergency Removal Branch to remove the surface materials from the three areas of the currently delineated Cornell Dubilier site that contain PCB-contaminated materials (see Attachment A-2).
2. Install silt fencing around the perimeter of the site and funnel the surface water runoff through a series of successive check dams built with hay bails. This should include the maintaining of the bails, as they need to be replaced after successive rainfalls. As a result, the amount of contaminated runoff from the site into the Bound Brook that typically occurs after a rainfall would be reduced. (See Attachment A-3).
3. Designate the Dismal Swamp dumping area containing PCB-contaminated capacitors as an operable unit of the Cornell Dubilier site and immediately delineate the extent of soil, water, and biota impacts of this area (see Attachment A-4).
4. EWA recommends that the EPA investigates the area and conducts a removal action of the capacitors and surrounding soil.
5. Extend the fence line at the site to encompass the entire area along Spice Avenue (beyond the property owner boundary) until such time that EPA can sample the area and prove that contamination stops at the property line.
6. Conduct samplings for PCB's of the dredge piles that are present at the New Market Pond downstream from the Cornell Dubilier Site. EPA testing has shown that New Market Pond has been impacted and continues to be impacted from the Cornell Dubilier Site. The piles are located on New Market Road across from the driveway to the Pepsi-Cola Company. If sampling indicates contamination, EWA requests that the EPA dispose of the dredge piles properly.

7. Determine the fate of dredge material previously taken from the New Market Pond. This dredge was purchased by Town and Country Landscaping of Somerset, NJ, and reportedly used as fill prior to home construction.
8. Implement hot-spot removal for PCB's in the Bound Brook above 25 PPM.
9. Install additional signs in the New Market Pond so that subsistence fisherman will be aware of contamination in the fish and pond.
10. Appropriate funding for an expedited on-site groundwater and soil investigation. The normal 5-year cleanup time frame cannot effectively address the wide spread contamination from the Cornell Dubilier site.
11. Hold a public forum to form a Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) at the site with the purpose of disseminating information to the public and getting input from the residents impacted by the Cornell Dubilier Superfund Site. The EPA's mission recognizes the importance of community involvement in the Superfund process. Many residents and elected officials are not informed about the status of the cleanup at the Cornell Dubilier Superfund Site.

## **6.0 Distribution**

Senator Frank Lautenberg, with separate cover  
Mayor Dan Gallagher, South Plainfield with separate cover  
Mayor Helen Merolla, Piscataway with separate cover  
Larry Randolph, South Plainfield Environment Commission with separate cover  
Jim Eckert, South Plainfield Township Clerk with separate cover  
Steve Luftig, US Environmental Protection Agency with separate cover  
Jeanne Fox, US Environmental Protection Agency with separate cover  
John Frisco, US Environmental Protection Agency with separate cover  
Carol Peterson, US Environmental Protection Agency with separate cover  
Peter Mannino, US Environmental Protection Agency with separate cover  
Richard Gimello, NJ Department of Environmental Protection with separate cover  
Fred Mumford, NJ Department of Environmental Protection with separate cover  
Arthur Block, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry with separate cover  
Gregory Ulirsch, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry with separate cover  
James Pasqualo, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services with separate cover



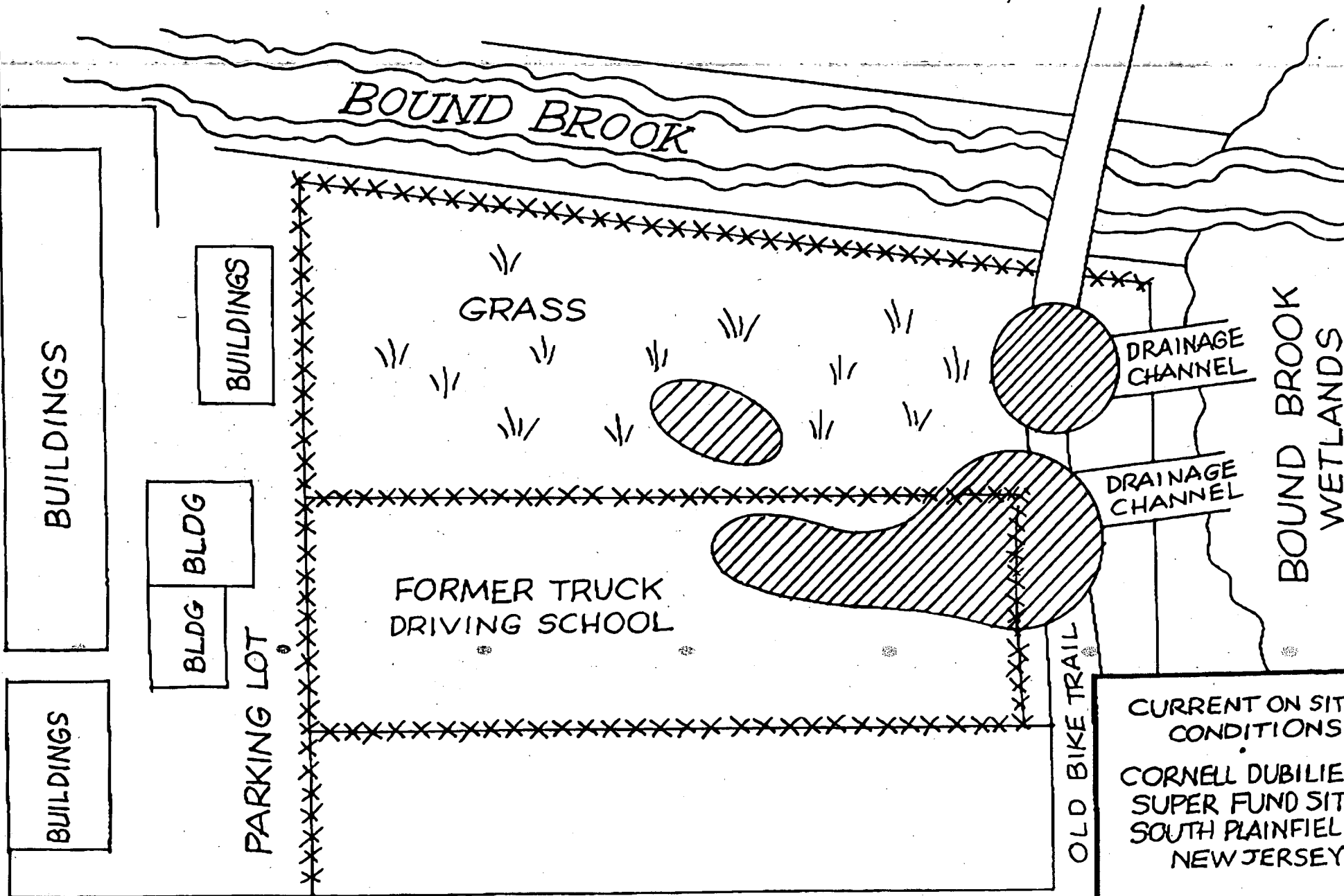
Microsoft  
**Streets Plus**

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**General Site Map**  
**Cornell-Dubilier Superfund Site**  
**Site Inspection Report**



HAMILTON BLVD.



BUILDINGS

BUILDINGS

BLDG BLDG

PARKING LOT

GRASS

FORMER TRUCK  
DRIVING SCHOOL

DRAINAGE  
CHANNEL

DRAINAGE  
CHANNEL

BOUND BROOK  
WETLANDS

SPICER AVE.

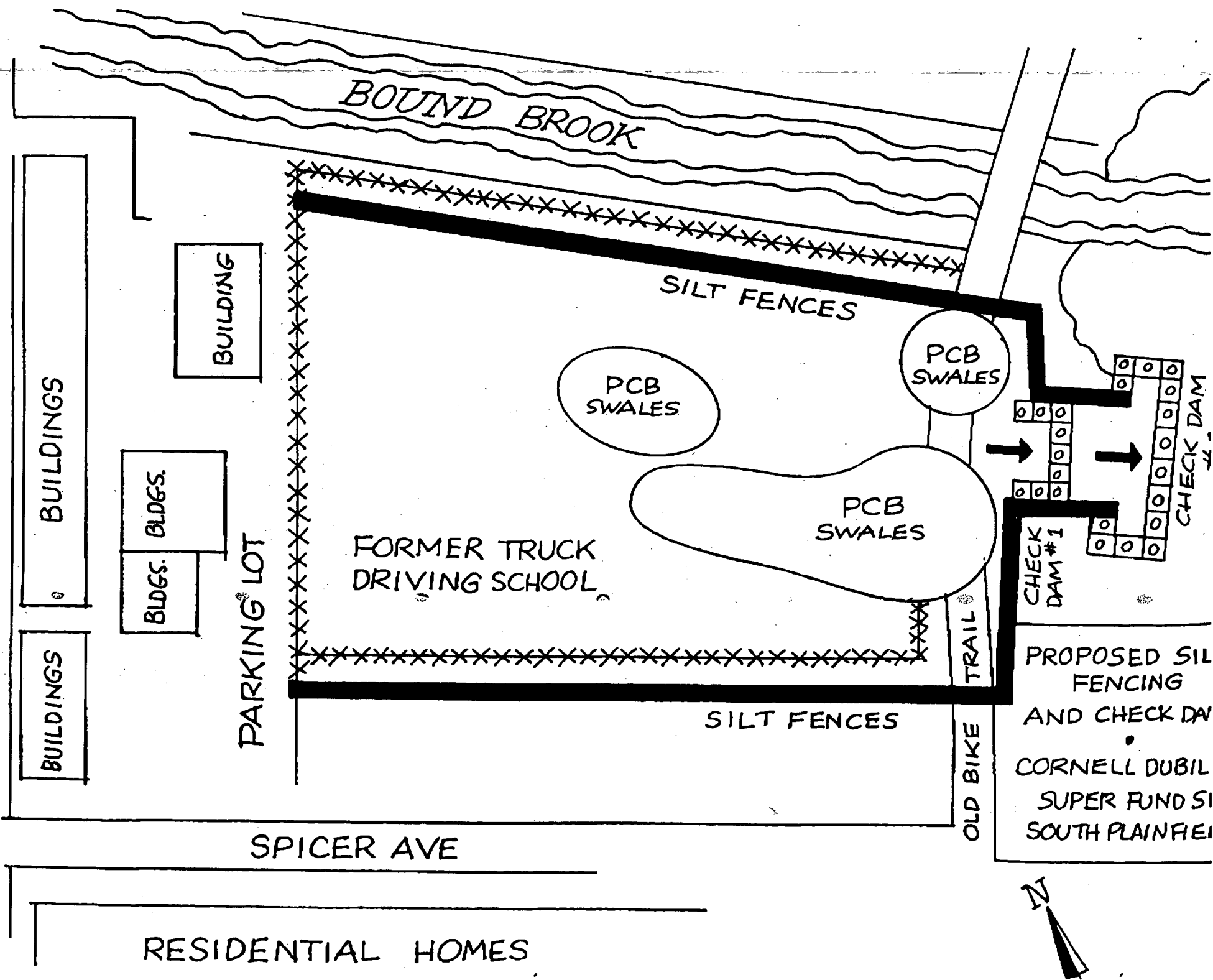
RESIDENTIAL HOMES

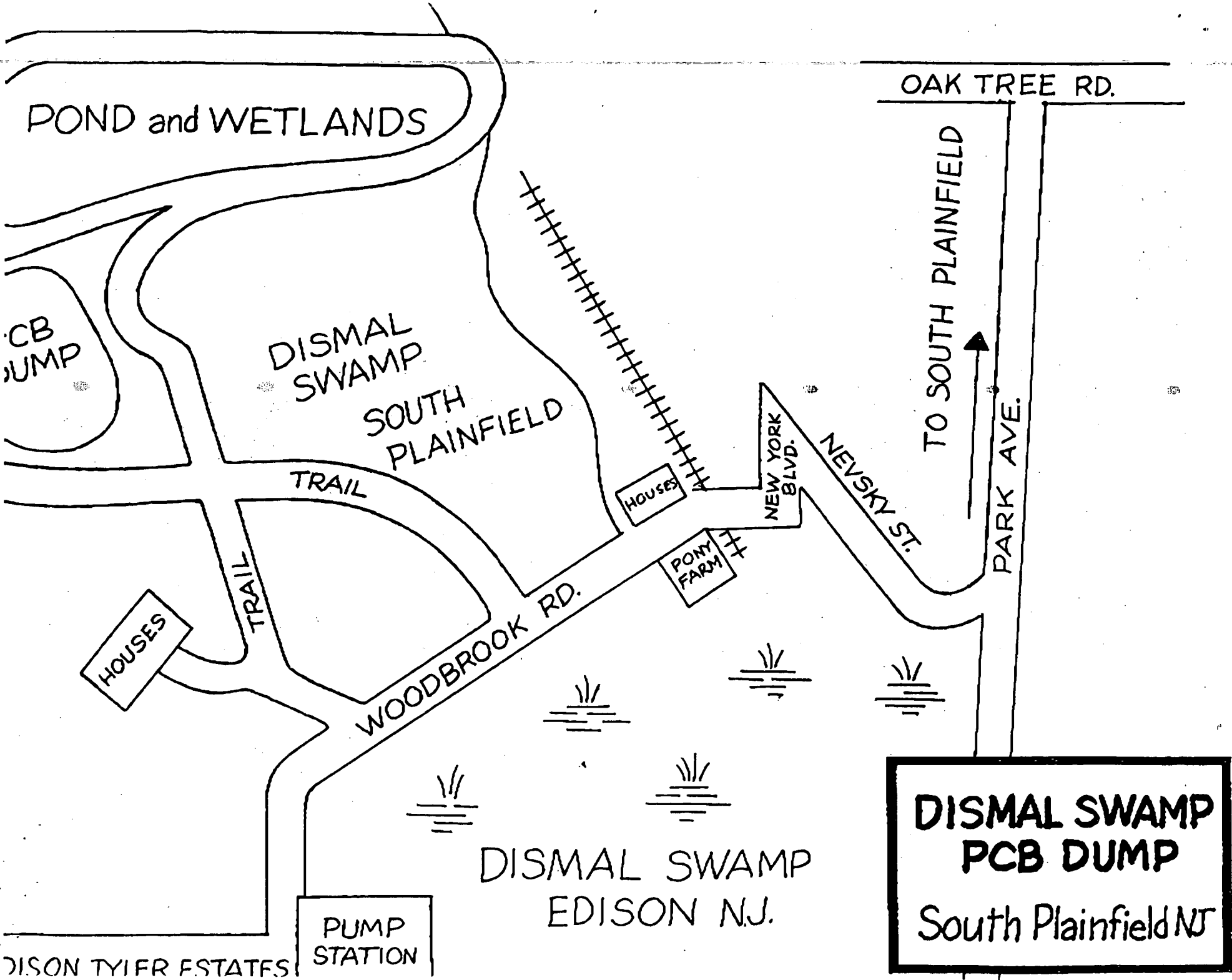
PCB SWALES  
FENCE LINE



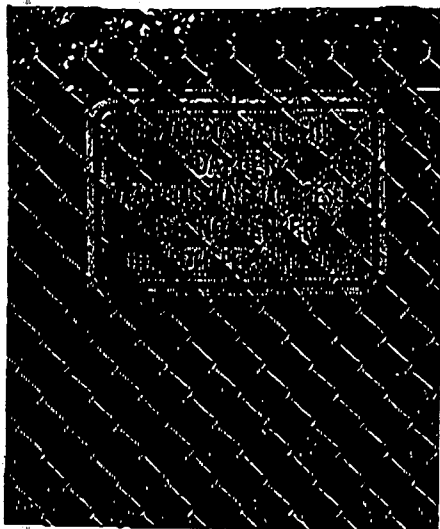
CURRENT ON SITE  
CONDITIONS  
CORNELL DUBILIER  
SUPER FUND SITE  
SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
NEW JERSEY

HAMILTON BLVD.





EDISON TYLER ESTATES



↑ Warning sign at the  
Perimeter of the Cornell  
Dubilier Superfund Site.

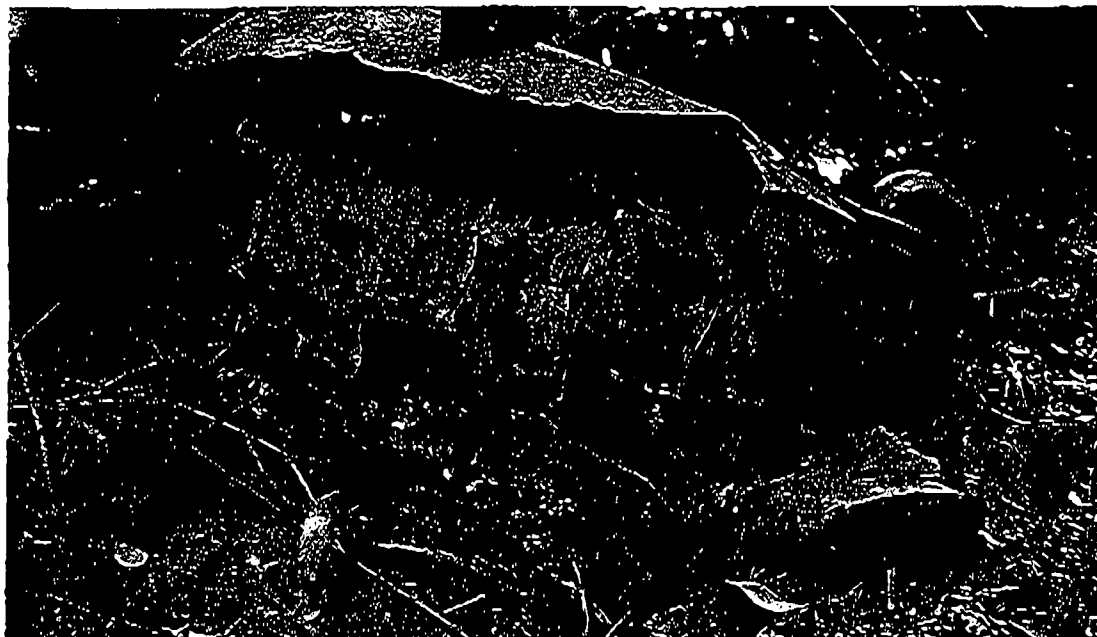


↑ PCB Swales in a vacant lot at the Cornell Dubilier Superfund Site  
in Plainfield, New Jersey.

→ Dredge piles  
Columbus Park,  
New Market Pond,  
Piscataway, NJ



← Close up of PCB contaminated  
materials at the Cornell Dubilier  
Superfund Site.



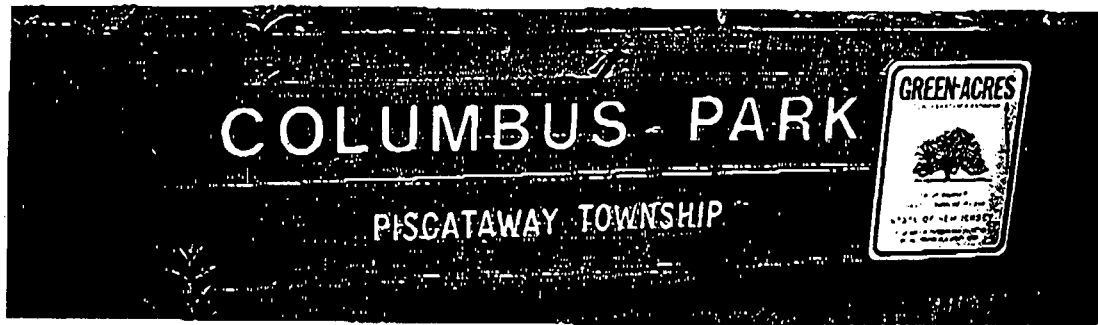
Leaking PCB capacitor  
in the Dismal Swamp,  
South Plainfield, NJ.



Leaking PCB capacitor  
in the Dismal Swamp,  
South Plainfield, NJ.

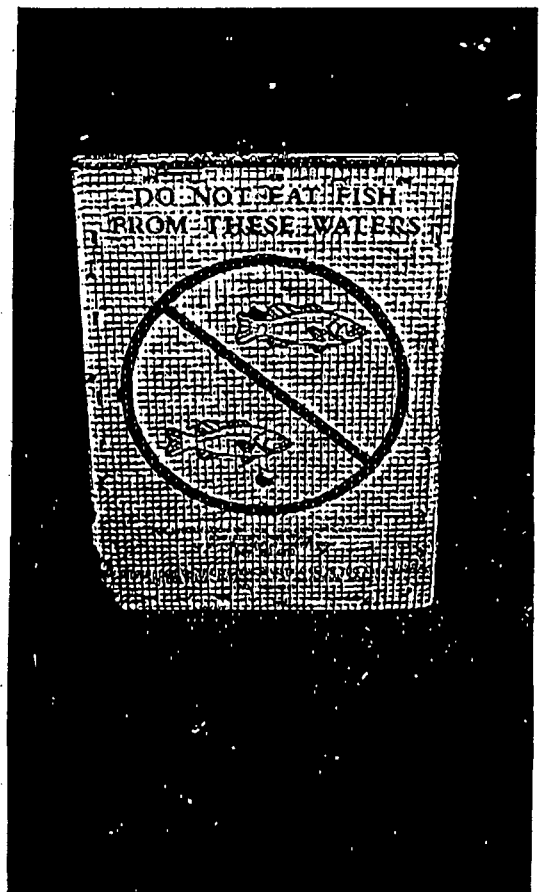


Leaking PCB capacitors  
in the Dismal Swamp,  
South Plainfield, NJ.



← Subsistence fisherman at New Market Pond. \*Note that there are no fish advisory signs in the area.

↓ Ducks and other wildlife in and around the New Market Pond can not read the remaining warning sign.



↑ Last remaining advisory sign around New Market Pond. The sign is located in a remote area and does not appear near popular fishing locations.

**Incident Reporting Form**  
**Edison Wetlands Association**

**Type:** Initial

**Date:** September 9, 1999 **Time:** afternoon **Weather:** sunny and mild

**NJ DEP Case File Number:** 99-09-09-1132-30

**Site Name:** Dismal Swamp, PCB Dump

**Site Location:** Dismal Swamp, New York Blvd., South Plainfield, NJ

**Parties alerted or involved:**

- NJ DEP Main Number- 877 927 6337
- NJ DEP: Mr. Joseph Hoyle- 609-584-4130
- Middlesex County Haz-mat: Mr. Robert Scully- 732-727-6626

**Reason for Inspection:** Suspected PCB Capacitors found in Dismal Swamp

**Description of Incident:**

Mr. Spiegel, of the Edison Wetlands Association, identified 5 capacitors in the wooded wetlands in the Dismal Swamp in South Plainfield, NJ. Mr. Spiegel contacted the NJ DEP Hotline via Andrea Ace of the Edison Wetlands Association. The original report was given to Operator 24 of the NJ DEP. A report was filled out and routed to the Middlesex County Hazardous Materials Unit (Haz-mat) for further investigation. Mr. Spiegel met authorities from the Middlesex County Haz-mat at the corner Stephenville Pkwy. and Park Ave. intersection in Edison, NJ.

Upon further investigation, 18 capacitors were identified. Many of the capacitors were in various stages of decay and visible soil staining was present at the site. Due to the size and weight, they were not removed at that time. Middlesex County Hazmat removed materials from two of the capacitors for gross analysis to determine if PCB's were present.

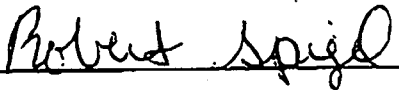
## **Incident Reporting Form** **Edison Wetlands Association**

### **EWA Recommendations**

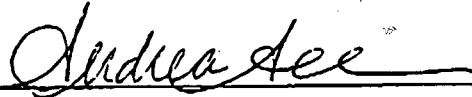
- ◆ Follow up with Middlesex County Haz-mat on status of samples.
- ◆ Contact NJ DEP to have dumping area added to the list of known contaminated sites.
- ◆ Contact Borough of South Plainfield to inform them of site.
- ◆ Conduct further field investigations to determine if additional capacitors were disposed of in the surrounding area.

### **Prepared By:**

Robert Spiegel, Executive Director  
Edison Wetlands Association

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Andrea Ace, Developmental Coordinator  
Edison wetlands Association

  
\_\_\_\_\_



## **Incident Reporting Form**

### **Edison Wetlands Association**

**Type:** Follow up

**Date:** Monday, September 13, 1999 **Time:** 1PM **Weather:** Sunny and Clear

**Site Name:** Dismal Swamp, PCB Dump

**NJ DEP Case File Number:** 99-09-09-1132-30

**Site Location:** Dismal Swamp, South Plainfield

\*Videotape and photographs of inspection available upon request

**Parties Present (include names, organizations and contact info):**

Robert Spiegel, Edison Wetlands Association, (732) 661-9630

Joseph E. Hoyle, Jr. NJ DEP (609) 584-4136

Jack Ewski, Middlesex County Haz-Mat, (732) 727-6626

Bob Scully, Middlesex County Haz-Mat, (732) 727-6626

**Reason for Inspection:** To follow up on suspected illegal PCB capacitor dump in the Dismal Swamp.

#### **Description of Inspection:**

R. Spiegel met the Middlesex County Haz-Mat Unit at the Sunoco Service Station at the corner of Park Ave. and Steventville Parkway in Edison, NJ at 1PM. We proceeded down Nevsky Street to New York Blvd. where we met up with Joseph Hoyle, Jr., an Emergency Response Specialist from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. We proceeded down Woodbrook Road, a dirt road on the border of Edison and South Plainfield, and parked on the edge of the road.

We entered the site via a path used for off-road vehicles and began the visual inspection of the site. Haz-mat and DEP personnel counted the suspected capacitors many leaking and various stages decay with visible soil staining around the dump areas. The inspection team determined that at least 22 capacitors are on the surface, the intact units weighing about 30 pounds. Mr. Hoyle took a sample from the contents of one of the capacitors.

Upon closer survey of the area Mr. Scully found material with the name Cornell Dublier stamped on it.

After a brief reconnaissance of the area we departed and went back to our vehicles. Mr. Hoyle requested that I show him the Cornell Dublier site and we left the swamp and proceeded to the Cornell Dublier Site.

## **Incident Reporting Form**

### **Edison Wetlands Association**

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Haz-Mat and the Edison Wetlands Association went to the Cornell Dublier Site in South Plainfield and R. Spiegel gave a brief overview of the site. Haz-Mat departed and R. Spiegel and J. Hoyle went to the South Plainfield Tax Assessors office to ascertain the legal owners of the dumpsite. The owner is Texas Eastern Terminal/ P.O Box 1642/ Houston, Texas. J. Hoyle said he was returning to the site to talk to the residents in the swamp and would start an investigation and let me know what the test results are for the sample he collected.

#### **Follow up and recommendations:**

- Upon DEP confirmation of PCB's at site, DEP and EPA should conduct a more detailed site inspection and determine who will be the lead agency and if there are any other responsible parties.
- Plan and implement a removal action at the site to remove the capacitors and contaminated soils from the site.
- Conduct additional samples of the soil, ground and surface water.
- Conduct fish and other biota sampling at the site.
- Take action with regards to any violations that may have occurred.

#### **Prepared By:**

Robert Spiegel, Edison Wetlands Association



Andrea Ace, Edison Wetlands Association



## Polychlorinated Biphenyls<sup>1</sup>

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Polychlorinated biphenyls are a mixture of individual chemicals which are no longer produced in the United States, but are still found in the environment. Polychlorinated biphenyls can cause irritation of the nose and throat, and acne and rashes. They have been shown to cause cancer in animal studies. Polychlorinated biphenyls have been found in at least 383 of the 1,430 National Priorities List sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

### **What are polychlorinated biphenyls?**

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are a group of manufactured organic chemicals that contain 209 individual chlorinated chemicals (known as congeners). PCBs are either oily liquids or solids and are colorless to light yellow in color. They have no known smell or taste. There are no known natural sources of PCBs. Some commercial PCB mixtures are known in the United States by their industrial trade name, Aroclor. PCBs don't burn easily and are good insulating material. They have been used widely as coolants and lubricants in transformers, capacitors, and other electrical equipment. The manufacture of PCBs stopped in the United States in 1977 because of evidence that they build up in the environment and cause harmful effects. Products containing PCBs are old fluorescent lighting fixtures, electrical appliances containing PCB capacitors, old microscope oil, and hydraulic fluids.

### **What happens to PCBs when they enter the environment?**

- Before 1977, PCBs entered the air, water, and soil during their manufacture and use.
- Today, PCBs can be released into the environment from hazardous waste sites that contain PCBs, illegal or improper dumping of PCB wastes, and leaks from electrical transformers containing PCBs.
- PCBs may be carried long distances in the air; they remain in the air for approximately 10 days.
- In water, a small amount of the PCBs may remain dissolved, but most sticks to organic particles and sediments.
- PCBs in water build up in fish and marine mammals and can reach levels thousands of times higher than the levels in water.

### **How might I be exposed to PCBs?**

- Eating food, including fish, meat and dairy products containing PCBs
- Breathing air near hazardous waste sites that contain PCBs
- Drinking PCB-contaminated well water
- Repairing or maintaining PCB transformers

### **How can PCBs affect my health?**

Animal testing is sometimes necessary to find out how toxic substances might harm people or to treat those who have been exposed. Laws today protect the welfare of research animals and scientists must follow strict guidelines. People exposed to PCBs in the air for a long time have experienced irritation of the nose and lungs, and skin irritations, such as acne and rashes.

It is not known whether PCBs may cause birth defects or reproductive problems in people. Some studies have shown that babies born to women who consumed PCB-contaminated fish had problems with their nervous systems at birth. However, it is not known whether these problems were definitely due to PCBs or other chemicals. Animals that breathed very high levels of PCBs had liver and kidney damage, while animals that ate food with large amounts of PCBs had mild liver damage. Animals that ate food with smaller amounts of PCBs had liver, stomach, and thyroid gland injuries, and anemia, acne, and problems with their reproductive systems. Skin exposure to PCBs in animals resulted in liver, kidney, and skin damage.

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has determined that PCBs may reasonably be anticipated to be carcinogens.

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<sup>1</sup> Summarized from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry ToxFAQ's on PCB's